IN THE UNATED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#6 9719 BA11-901

In re Patent Application of 0'1 2001

HYODO et al

Serial No. 09/437,239

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information referenced herein and attached hereto was first cited in an office action from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application Japanese No. 6-179000 not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the October 9, 2001 office action is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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